

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Received & Inspected
OCT 17 2016

869 FCC Mail Room

October 12, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected
OCT 17 2016
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We respectfully ask you to expedite the resolution of the waiver request by Butler-Bremer Communications, which has been pending before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) since May 12, 2015.

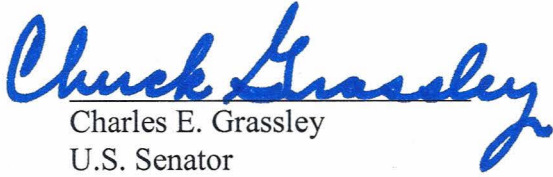
Several years ago, Butler-Bremer, which serves approximately 1,600 customers in northeast Iowa, purchased the smaller Shell Rock Communications, which serves 682 customers. Currently, Shell Rock is operated separately with FCC regulated rates. However, in order to realize savings from the purchase, Butler-Bremer would merge the two study areas of the individual companies, which will have no impact on end-user customers. A waiver of certain FCC rules is necessary to do so.


Butler-Bremer filed the necessary paperwork on May 12, 2015 regarding the waiver of these rules in order to consolidate business operations. To date, they have not received any indication of a timeline for approval or disapproval from the FCC or any further requests for information to assist the agency in making their determination.

Unfortunately, these delays are costing a small business valuable resources and capital necessary for reinvestment and service improvements. Butler-Bremer has yet to realize any of the cost savings associated from the combination of operations and would like to do so as soon as possible in order to elect a funding path for universal service.

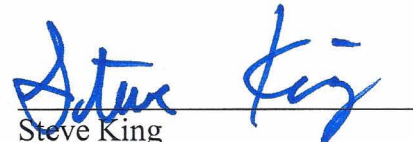
Again, we request you expedite the resolution of the waiver request and inform Butler-Bremer Communications of a date for final determination. We thank you for your prompt time and attention to this matter and request you reach out to our offices if we can be of further assistance in expediting a resolution.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator


Joni K. Ernst
U.S. Senator


Rod Blum
Member of Congress


Steve King
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Joni Ernst
United States Senate
111 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition filed by Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company (Butler-Bremer) for a waiver of the Commission's intercarrier compensation rules to merge and consolidate affiliated study areas in Iowa. In your letter, you encourage the Commission to expedite a resolution of this petition.

Commission staff are working to resolve this petition for waiver as quickly and equitably as possible. The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) released a Public Notice seeking comment on Butler-Bremer's petition, and the comment cycle on the matter has concluded. WCB staff also met with Butler-Bremer representatives to further discuss their views on the waiver petition. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission works to conclude its review of Butler-Bremer's petition for waiver.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Rod Blum
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blum:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition filed by Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company (Butler-Bremer) for a waiver of the Commission's intercarrier compensation rules to merge and consolidate affiliated study areas in Iowa. In your letter, you encourage the Commission to expedite a resolution of this petition.

Commission staff are working to resolve this petition for waiver as quickly and equitably as possible. The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) released a Public Notice seeking comment on Butler-Bremer's petition, and the comment cycle on the matter has concluded. WCB staff also met with Butler-Bremer representatives to further discuss their views on the waiver petition. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission works to conclude its review of Butler-Bremer's petition for waiver.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition filed by Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company (Butler-Bremer) for a waiver of the Commission's intercarrier compensation rules to merge and consolidate affiliated study areas in Iowa. In your letter, you encourage the Commission to expedite a resolution of this petition.

Commission staff are working to resolve this petition for waiver as quickly and equitably as possible. The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) released a Public Notice seeking comment on Butler-Bremer's petition, and the comment cycle on the matter has concluded. WCB staff also met with Butler-Bremer representatives to further discuss their views on the waiver petition. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission works to conclude its review of Butler-Bremer's petition for waiver.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 17, 2016

The Honorable Steve King
U.S. House of Representatives
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition filed by Butler-Bremer Mutual Telephone Company (Butler-Bremer) for a waiver of the Commission's intercarrier compensation rules to merge and consolidate affiliated study areas in Iowa. In your letter, you encourage the Commission to expedite a resolution of this petition.

Commission staff are working to resolve this petition for waiver as quickly and equitably as possible. The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) released a Public Notice seeking comment on Butler-Bremer's petition, and the comment cycle on the matter has concluded. WCB staff also met with Butler-Bremer representatives to further discuss their views on the waiver petition. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding, and will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission works to conclude its review of Butler-Bremer's petition for waiver.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over the word "Sincerely,".
Tom Wheeler